

The Goby

San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

Volume 65 Issue 2

Established 1961 - <http://www.sdups.org>

February 2026

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

What an amazing first meeting we had in January. Thank you so much for joining us — both in person and online. The number of photos and videos submitted for our January competition was outstanding, and the participation in voting was even better. Let's keep that momentum going.

I want to take a moment to talk about voting, because it's a huge part of what makes our monthly competitions meaningful. Voting gives each of us the chance to support our fellow members and the content they work so hard to create. As someone who also submits entries, I truly look forward to seeing the results each month. I don't see the exact number of votes my submissions receive, but the placement alone gives me valuable feedback on how my work resonated with the group.

Your vote matters. It helps every member who puts time, effort, and passion into their photos and videos.

So, I encourage everyone — whether you submit content or not — to take a few moments each month to vote. It's quick, it's easy, and it means a great deal to the creators in our community.

Thank you to everyone who participates in the monthly competition process. Your involvement is greatly appreciated.

James Logan - *President*, SDUPS



SDUPS online **Hybrid Zoom Meeting**, February 26 7 pm. Join us to see old friends and enjoy an U/W presentation.

- * Download the Zoom app to your computer (<https://zoom.us/download>) or
- * Click on the Link below
- * Meeting ID number: 859 403 9607
- * Meeting Password: SDUPS1961



CALENDAR

February 26 – 7 pm SDUPS Hybrid Meeting at Sumner Auditorium (Map page 8)

February Competition Winners Pages 2 & 3

Presentation: - **Andy Sallmon** - Strobe Tech - Page 4

January Meeting - **Tom & Maxine Baker** Raja Ampat & Misool - Page 5

SDUPS Membership Form Page 6

SCUBA Show - Page - 6

San Diego County Fair Photo Competition info - Page 7

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8594309607?pwd=UEJtUG0rczI3bEhOcW15LzlydJZjdz09>

February Competition

"Popping Up/Out"

Mike Couffer – 1st Place Advanced



Jack Der – 2nd Place Advanced



Greg Volger – 3rd Place Advanced



Doug Bonhaus - 1st Place Amateur



Tom Baker - 2nd Place Amateur



Matthias Scheer - 3rd Place Amateur



February Competition

"Popping Up/Out"

Jerald Pratt – 1st Place Novice



Diane Hotz – 2nd Place Novice



Leo Lstaden - 3rd Place Novice



Video Competition February

1st Place - **Walter Marti**

2nd Place - **Kristin Carner**

3rd Place - **Bob Yin**



Stats for the February Competition: Popping up/out

Still Entries:

Novice = 4

Amateur = 6

Advanced = 11

Videos = 9

Votes Cast = 38

**Presenting
Strobe Tech for Underwater
Photographers
February 28, 2026
7:15 pm at Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Campus**

ANDREW SALLMON

Join veteran photographer Andy Sallmon for a presentation about the latest features available to you in modern underwater strobes. If you have ever wondered what all the gobbledegook that strobe manufacturers are selling is about, but didn't want to watch 45 minute long technical youtube videos, and just want to understand what these things can do for your photography, then this is your chance. Come and watch, share ask questions and see for yourself how the latest strobe tech might benefit your work and broaden your abilities.



© Andrew Sallmon



© Andrew Sallmon

Andrew is a seasoned master scuba instructor with more than 45 years of diving experience and 12,000 dives. Over the past 25 years, he specialized in underwater photography, serving as a technical sales representative for Sea and Sea Underwater Photography. In February 2025, Andrew joined Marelux USA, Inc., a leading designer and manufacturer of high-quality underwater imaging equipment, as their new global marketing and sales manager. His extensive experience in diving, underwater photography promotion, and marketing positions him as a valuable asset to Marelux, enabling the company to enhance its global presence and product offerings. Marelux is confident that Andrew's expertise and innovative perspective will significantly contribute to the company's strategic growth and market development in the underwater imaging industry.



© Andrew Sallmon



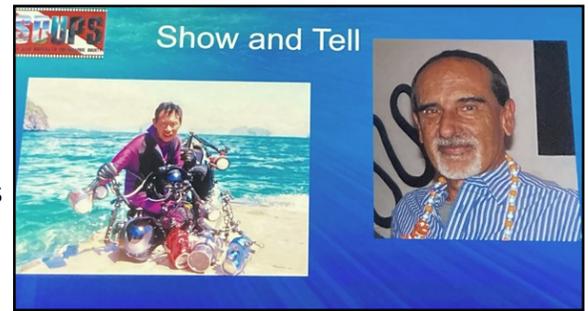
© Andrew Sallmon



SDUPS January 22nd Meeting

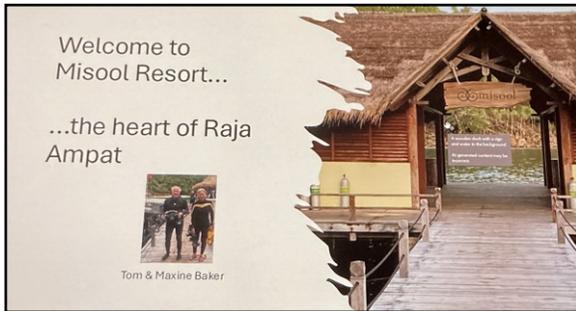
Our first meeting for 2026 was a busy evening. Our President **James Logan** started the meeting in the usual manner with introductions, the evenings agenda, and the introduction of guests.

Our first presenter was member **Charlotte Seid**. She and a few others from Scripps were included in a research project off the coast of Argentina. The main focus was deep ROV diving to 300/400 meters. Some of the data found was on cold water corals and deep sea worms among other finds. It sounded like a fascinating trip with educational findings.



Next up was a "Show & Tell" presented by **Bob Yin** and **Greg Volger**. They both recently made a trip to Malapascua Island to photograph Thresher Sharks among other undersea critters. Then it was on to Puerto Galera for more photographic adventures. Both members shared beautiful underwater images and videos.

We then enjoyed our refreshment break with time to share stories with other members.



Our main presentation for the evening was by **Tom & Maxine Baker** sharing their trip to Raja Ampat and the Misool Resort. This wasn't their first trip to the area, as they had been there many times. We learned all the ins & outs of just getting there which can be a long journey. They explained the resort with pictures of the accommodations, food and the staff. They also shared images of the beautiful reefs in the area, the fish, and critters found in that area of Indonesia. Thank you both for an informative and enjoyable presentation.



The last item on the agenda was the Competition for the month of January with the theme of "Best of 2025". As always, the membership exhibited their fine talents as underwater photographers.

Getting there: San Diego==> Misool (Raja Ampat)

1:40	San Diego to San Francisco
2:34	Layover
17:00	San Francisco to Singapore
3:35	Layover
1:20	Singapore to Jakarta
1 day	Overnight layover in Jakarta
4	Jakarta to Sorong
4	Sorong speedboat to Misool

Travel time on planes and layovers total about 33.55 hours, PLUS an overnight stay in Jakarta; final leg to Misool is a four-hour trip on a high-speed boat

Together with **James** and our Vice-President, **Paula Selby**, we have started the year off with a great meeting and wonderful presentations. Come join us at Sumner Auditorium to see what's it all about.



2026

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION RENEWAL

- Single \$35
 Family \$50
 Student \$15 (21 & under)
 New Member
 This is an Address Correction

Name 1

E-mail Address 1 (very important)

Name 2

E-mail Address 2

Address

Please make checks payable to: **SDUPS**

City/State/Zip

Mail to:

**San Diego Underwater
Photographic Society**
12525 Salmon River Rd
San Diego, CA 92129

Dues may also be paid
online. Go to:

www.sdups.com

Click on the MEMBER-
SHIP tab

Phone



Click on the Link Below

SCUBA SHOW

LONG BEACH TICKET 2026

SCUBA SHOW LONG BEACH 2026

Join us for two incredible days, **May 30–31, 2026**, celebrating the world of diving at the **Long Beach Convention Center!**

All tickets are **all-access** — enjoy the **exhibit hall, seminars, and workshops** with one pass.

- **Single Day – \$33:** Valid for **Saturday or Sunday**, with **unlimited re-entry**.
- **Weekend Pass – \$60:** Full access for both days.
- **VIP Pass – \$100:** Includes a weekend pass **plus** 6 issues of *Scuba Diver North America*, 6 issues of *California Diving News*, and a **Scuba Show T-shirt**. (Magazine Delivery US & Canada Residents Only)
- **Under 16s – Free!** Bring the family and let the kids dive into the fun with our **try-dive pool**.

One ticket. Full access. Endless inspiration.

[Long Beach Ticket 2026 – Scuba Show | One Show, Two Locations](#)



YOUR PHOTOS ON DISPLAY

The **International Exhibition of Photography** invites photographers of all skill levels to participate in one of the most prestigious and long-standing photography competitions in the United States.

This juried exhibition celebrates the art of photography, fostering connections between photographers of all skill levels and photo enthusiasts. The competition offers more than \$23,000 in awards money for 35 diverse classes of original color and black-and-white photographs. While this is one of the San Diego County Fair's most prestigious and competitive exhibitions, you need not be a professional photographer to enter — there's even a class for cell phone photos!

Join us in celebrating the photographic arts and the awe-inspiring power of visual storytelling through the lens of the camera.

Photo Shoot-Outs

Capture the magic of the San Diego County Fair in a fast-paced Photo Shoot Out! Put your skills to the test, showcase your creativity, and impress the judges—all in just 90 minutes. Are you ready for the ultimate photography challenge? Mark your calendar now and plan to join in on one (or both!) of the two Photo Shoot outs below!

Photo Shoot Out #1: June 21, 2026

Photo Shoot Out #2: June 28, 2026

COMPETITION TIMELINE

Entry Deadline	Tuesday, April 7, 2026, by 8pm
Tier 1 Notification Email	Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Shipped Entries May Arrive	Thursday, April 16–Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Entry Delivery	Monday, May 11, 2026, Noon–7pm and Tuesday, May 12, 2026, Noon–7pm
Fair Dates	Wednesday, June 10–Sunday, July 5 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Artist Reception	Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 6:30pm
Judges' Roundtable	Saturday, June 13, 2026, 7-9pm
Judges' Critique	Saturday, June 20, 2026, 7-9pm
Entry Pick-up	Tuesday, July 7, 2026, Noon–7pm

Link to S. D. Fair Photography Competition:

[San Diego County Fair International Exhibition of Photography: Competition Details & Entry Guide](#)

Sumner Auditorium Parking Map

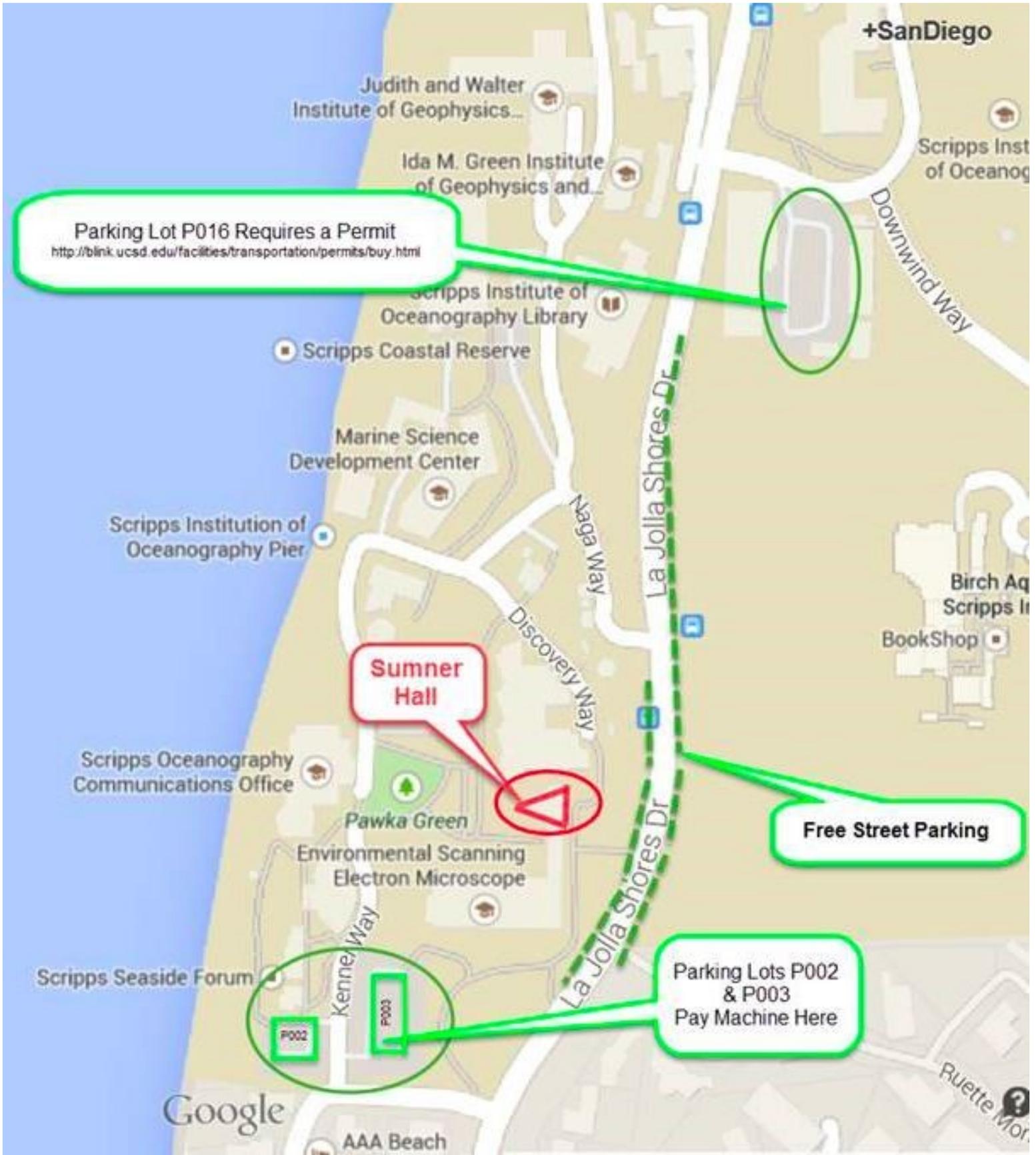
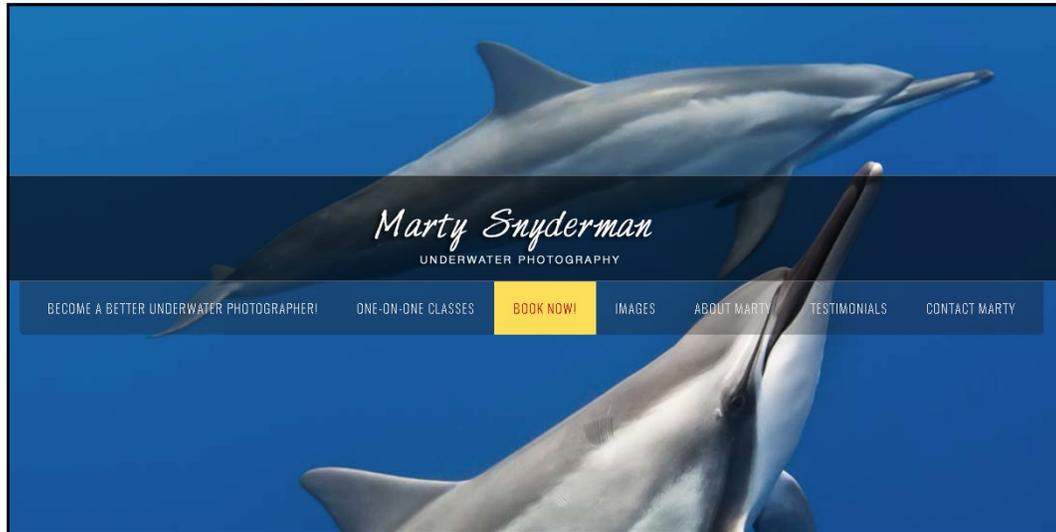


Photo Classes

One-on-one online classes in underwater photography with **Marty Snyderman** Classes are scheduled at your convenience and customized to match your goals 20% of the class fees are donated to SDUPS



BECOME A BETTER UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER! Underwater photography is a learned skill. So, you might as well learn from the best, an excellent photographer that is also an excellent teacher. Your instructor, Marty Snyderman, is that person.

When taking classes from Marty, you will receive one-on-one instruction as you review your images, discuss ways to improve your underwater photography, refine the techniques you are using, and learn new techniques, concepts, and skills that will help you create the photographs you want to make. The sessions center around techniques and are not tied to any particular make, model, or type of camera or camera system that can be used to make still photographs underwater.

Sharing a session with Marty is also a great way to re-fresh your photography skills before your next diving vacation. If you only get to dive a few times a year, during your next trip you are likely to spend a few days relearning and refreshing your skills. A session or two with Marty before your trip can turn the frustration and lost time from having to relearn into fun dives and pleasing photographs.

How It All Works The one-on-one program is completely customizable to your knowledge, skill level, and personal goals. Marty will use Zoom software to work with you. He has licensed a version of the software that enables the two of you to keep the sessions private.

During each session, Marty will share his expertise and help you gain a better understanding of various factors involved in underwater photography, and he will suggest techniques for you to employ that can help you improve your underwater photography. Each session can be up to 60 minutes long. The cost for a session is \$65.00 U.S. Any additional time that you will not be not charged for is provided at Marty's discretion or through the purchase of another session.

For more information on Marty's Classes, click on the link: www.martysnyderman.com

SDUPS SPONSORS



San Diego's #1 family-owned dive center for training, gear & travel.

15% OFF

Show this coupon at checkout for 15% OFF in store purchases for SDUPS members only. Exclusions apply, call store for details.





TRAVEL WITH US!
OUR UPCOMING TRIPS

 <p>TUBBATAHA on the Philippines Aggressor II</p> <p>June 13 - 20, 2026 Starting at \$4,845</p>	 <p>SEA OF CORTEZ on the Nautilus Belle Amie</p> <p>July 24 - 31, 2026 Starting at \$3,145</p>	 <p>PALAU at the Palau Pacific Resort</p> <p>November 22 - 29, 2026 Starting at \$4,575</p>
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SDUPS SPONSORS

House of Scuba
5141 Santa Fe St. Ste A
San Diego, California 92109

House of Scuba is offering members a 5% discount on most gear at the store and it will also be giving members a 5 fill air or 3 nitrox fill card. Air cards are not transferrable, so if members do not dive locally and therefore can't use the air card, they can still take advantage of the 5% discount on already guaranteed best prices. A list of members will be kept at the store for the air cards. www.houseofscuba.com

All Natural Insect Repellent

Lita's All Natural Insect Repellent products are proven effective worldwide in preventing, and treating, insect bites with natural ingredients and applications last approximately 6 hours. Lita's All Natural also offers insect repellent candles in a variety of scents.

Lita's products meet TSA requirements for carry-on or checked luggage. All containers are refillable and recyclable.

Receive a 15% discount with promo code SDUPS at: www.LitasAllNatural.com

Our Products

- Natural Insect Repellent (Yellow Label)
- 2-in-1 Natural Insect Repellent & Itch Relief (Green Label)
- Natural Insect Repellent Candles

.Contact info: NoSeeUmNoMore@aol.com



BACKSCATTER
UNDERWATER VIDEO & PHOTO

Go to: <https://www.backscatter.com/>



Competition Themes For 2026

Month	Topic Name	Description	Bonus
January	Best of 2025	Select your favorite underwater footage from 2025	Tell why you chose this entry (use note field in submission form)
February	Popping Up/Out	In honor of Groundhog Day, composition with subject(s) popping up/out of a hole or from behind a barrier	More than one subject together
March	Behavior - Different Species	Composition that shows different species interacting in same way	Shows a symbiotic relationship (a close & recurring interaction, beneficial)
April	New Beginnings	Showcase eggs, newborns, or juveniles	Vertebrate subject(s) - fish, reptile, bird, mammal)
May	Attention to Detail	Examples include tiny subjects, close-ups of large subjects or other artistic intention that emphasizes details	Repeating pattern/texture
June	Sea Slugs	Any marine gastropod without a shell - Nudibranchs, Sear Hares, Sapsuckers, Headshield Slug, etc.	Provide the common or scientific name (use note field in submission form)
July	Big, Bright & Sunny	Wide angle Composition with prominent	Ambient light only
August	Shooting the Surface	Subject is on the surface (boat, swimmer, bird, etc.) footage shot from your perspective. Over/under, silhouettes, or	Sky is visible
September	Leafy	Animals resembling vegetation (such as sponges, tunicates, anemones, pipefish, seahorses, sea dragons)	Autumn colors -strong use of red, orange, and/or yellow
October	Spooky	Open to your interpretation. Examples: "dark & stormy", compositions or a scene that is scary for other reasons.	Shows something not alive (dead animal remains or inanimate objects such as wrecks)
November	Photoshopped	Creative editing/manipulation using digital programs such as PhotoShop. No restrictions. "Your entry must include your underwater work somewhere in the composition, Anything else used must be royalty/copyright free.	Add a title (use note field in submission form) Can be creative or humorous

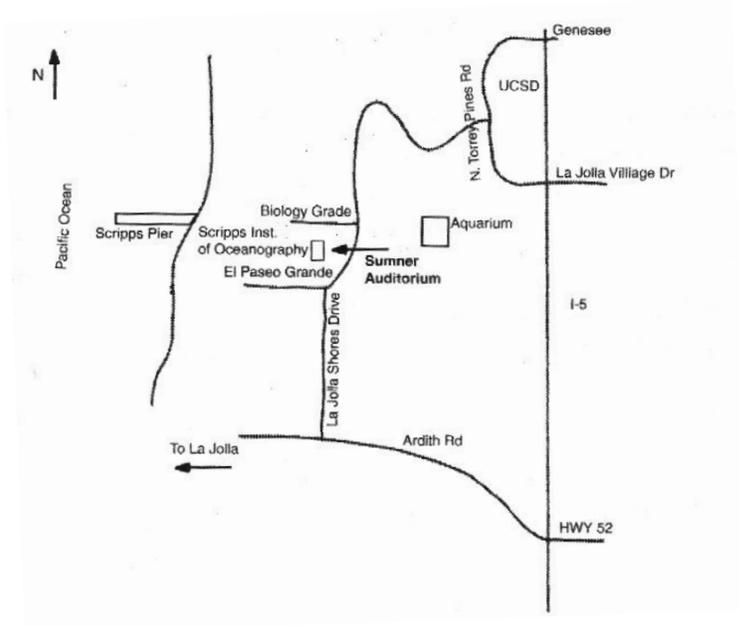
Monthly Meetings

Usually the fourth Thursday of each month
7:00pm
(No meeting in December)

Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Institute of Oceanography 8602
La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

For more information
check the SDUPS web page

<http://www.sdups.org>



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sdups1961@gmail.com

Vice President

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Bill Ring
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Activities

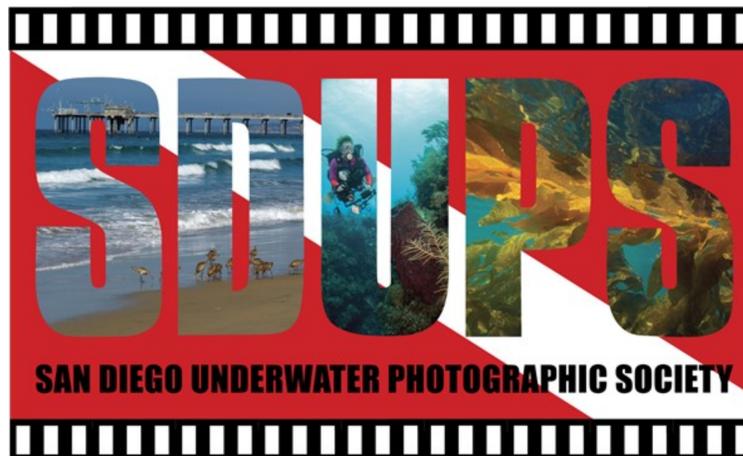
Cindy Liphay
cindyliphay@sbcglobal.net

Board Members at Large:

Herb Gruenhagen
Greg Volger
Jami Feldman
Beth Besom

Appointed Positions

SIO Liaison - Charlotte Seid
Mike Poirier - Goby Editor
Dave Hinkel - Equipment Tech
Kris Carner - Web Master
Kris Carner - Social Media
Beth Beason - Computer Tech
Walter Heim - Historian



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